


Hello. My name is Janet Kelly and I would like to begin by telling a little about myself. I am 49 years old. I am a happily married woman to the same man, Rick Kelly, for 29 years. He is seated behind me today. We live in an average size town in Arizona. We have two sons who are the love of our life.

I am a successful Real estate agent for a large firm going into my 4th year of sales. My husband is also a hard working man, who has devoted his life to managing auto dealerships. We are a traditional family, with traditional values. We work hard, pay our taxes, go to Church, give back to our community. We obey the law.

In February of 2000, after the sudden loss of our 18 year old daughter, and soon followed by my husband's heart attack and open heart surgery, I decided to go on a "healing 4 day cruise with some neighbors. I had hoped to relax, regroup, and return home to my family. This certainly was a long- overdue vacation, but I could never have anticipated the following.


On the last night of the cruise, shortly before dinner, I was drugged by a bartender employed by the cruise line. He lead me to a remote bathroom marked "crew members only" and sexually assaulted me when I was in a semi-conscious/unconscious state.



I cannot begin to describe to you the pain, humiliation, and suffering this incident inflicted on me and my family. Instead of being able to regroup after everything that had transpired in our family, we were again totally fractured. Every aspect of my life was changed with this event. Work, marriage, children, and our emotional stability.

I reported the crime to local authorities, which informed me that only the FBI had jurisdiction over crimes at sea....But it took the FBI months to investigate and interview the assailant who had raped me. They did not prosecute him, even though they had my clothing, the rape kit completed at my local hospital, the individual's identity and my testimony. The authorities had my full and complete cooperation to do what ever was necessary to apprehend and bring the criminal to justice.

After the FBI interviewed this criminal, he remained on the same ship. I was terrified that I had been exposed to HIV. It was only after filing a civil suit against the cruise line and the individual who raped me that the cruise line conceded to have him tested for HIV. They fired him and sent him back to his homeland, Jamaica.



In Sept of 2000, I wrote a letter to my Senator along with 200 congressional leaders. I am submitting a copy of the letter today along with my testimony. I had a total of one response from Senator John McCain. He said he said he was sorry of my circumstance, and there was little he could do to help. I was concerned for others safety as I walked off that ship, and for good reason. I felt that the injustice of what happened to me has never been righted. In my letter I proposed the same changes in which I will again propose today. Only this time it is after many more horrible tragedies.

For the record I would like to inform congress that my assailant went on later that same year and was reemployed with yet another cruise line. Through my own efforts this information came to light. I instructed my attorney to inform the cruise line which had hired him, that they had a rapist aboard the cruise ship. They determined that he falsified his application, and then they fired him. But where is he now?

This is hardly the image portrayed on the cruise line advertisements. Could this rapist and others like himself be on another cruise line? How is it that these huge Cruise corporations continue to operate business as usual, with absolutely no accountability for the crimes that occur on their ships?

The cruise industry continues to thrive in this lawless environment, just waiting for naïve passengers victims, like you and myself, who are innocent victims of prey. There are legal changes that must be made to increase safety on these ships.

I strongly suggest.....

US Marshals to be present on cruise ships

A main data base of terminated individuals/employees that all cruise lines must Report to.

Changes in legislation, making these cruise lines safe for U.S. passengers.

Warnings to passengers: The last day and evening on these cruise lines is when Most of the foul play occurs.

To the general public: I suggest traveling in numbers and staying together. Only Drink out of beverages that you have witnessed being prepared, or ask that your Bottled drinks come unopened. This goes for establishments on and off Ships.

The U.S. Government is desperately needed to intervene....and make it safe for U.S. passengers to travel on cruise ships.

In closing, over the past six years since my ordeal, I have heard too many stories about cruise victim after victim. The injustice of these crimes burns my very soul. Two of the people that disappeared on these cruise lines- George Smith and Jim Scavone, disappeared on my youngest sons birthday, July 5th. Enough is enough already! Having been a victim, I feel each one of these families pain. I offer the Carvers, Smiths, Nagels, and Scavones, my sincere condolences. Your children's deaths are not in vain. By being strong and coming forward with your testimonies you can give your loved ones a voice today, and prevent the next unnecessary death. Do not be intimidated by these cruise companies: although they are big and wealthy and powerful, they will bend under the weight of your conviction.



I feel honored to be here today as a representative of the hundreds of cruise victims who do not have a voice. Thank you Congress, for letting me speak today, I pray that you are successful in making the necessary changes so that the crimes at sea diminish and all of us can get on with healing and putting all this trauma behind us once and for all.

